

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

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P 061430Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3310

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 3322

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UG US GW

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF EMBASSY; FRG PROTECTION OF US INTERESTS
IN UGANDA

REFS: STATE 217605, 216671 AND 217790; KAMPALA 3321

1. I SPENT TWO HOURS PLUS WITH AMB KOPF THIS MORNING, LAST PART OF WHICH DCM HILLGENBERG ALSO ATTENDED. I APOLOGIZED TO HIM FOR MY INABILITY TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH HIM EARLIER AND EXPLAINED TO HIM STRICTURES OF 7 FAM 951.2. HE ACCEPTED EXPLANATION. I ALSO APOLOGIZED TO HIM FOR FACT HE HAS HAD TO CANCEL HIS HUNTING SAFARI PLANNED FOR COMING WEEKEND.

2. AT HIS REQUEST I GAVE HIM DETAILED ACCOUNT OF UPS AND DOWNS, MOSTLY DOWNS, OF OUR RELATIONS WITH GENERAL AMIN SINCE AMB. MELADY'S DEPARTURE LAST FEBRUARY. (AMB. MELADY AND KOPF USED TO HAVE TWICE-WEEKLY EXCHANGES. I REDUCED FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS WITH KOPF, PROBABLY TO HIS ANNOYANCE, PARTLY BECAUSE HIS AND MY VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS, INCLUDING UGANDA, ARE NOT PARTICULARLY COMPATIBLE.) KOPF WAS KEENLY INTERESTED IN BACKGROUND TO OUR HAVING CHOSEN FRG AS PROTECTING POWER, INCLUDING TIMING OF DISCUSSIONS. THOUGH HE IS WILLING TO DO JOB, HE IS NOT ESPECIALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT. HE WONDERED WHY WE HAD NOT CHOSEN THE FRENCH OR THE NIGERIANS
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INSTEAD.

3. HE READ TO ME INSTRUCTIONS HE HAD RECEIVED FROM BONN TO THE EFFECT THAT IN INTERESTS OF BOTH THE FRG AND THE USG, THE FOREIGN OFFICE HOPED FRG'S ROLE AS PROTECTING POWER WOULD DO NO HARM TO THE GOOD RELATIONS NOW EXISTING BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GOU. KOPF MENTIONED GERMANY'S "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH ISRAEL AS ONE COMPLICATING FACTOR, IN VIEW OF AMIN'S ANTI-ISRAEL FANATICISM. KOPF SAID MY BRIEFING ON SUBJECT OF FRG SERVING AS PROTECTING POWER WAS JUST LIKE NEWS TO HIM BECAUSE HE HAD RECEIVED VERY LITTLE IN THE WAY OF INFORMATION FROM BONN. AT HIS REQUEST I GAVE HIM A COPY OF TEXT OF NOTE WE PLAN TO SEND (STATE 216671) AS MODIFIED BY STATE 217790. I POINTED OUT THAT THE LATTER CHANGES HAD NOT YET BEEN APPROVED IN BONN.

4. WE HAD A FAIRLY INTERMINABLE DISCUSSION OF JUST WHAT THE SCENARIO SHOULD BE REGARDING DELIVERY OF OUR TWO NOTES THIS COMING WEEKEND. I TOLD KOPF MY TIMING WAS PRETTY WELL SET IN CONCRETE, AS MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO HAVE EVERYBODY, INCLUDING MYSELF, OUT OF UGANDA BY SATURDAY NIGHT. KOPF SUGGESTED THAT I DELIVER MY NOTE AS LATE AS POSSIBLE ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JUST BEFORE COB AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, IN THE HOPE IT COULD BE KEPT OFF THE MEDIA BROADCASTS THAT EVENING. HE ACCEPTED MY REASONING THAT I CANNOT DELIVER MY NOTE SATURDAY MORNING, SINCE MINISTRY IS CLOSED AND THERE WILL BE NO ONE TO DELIVER IT TO. KOPF'S TENTATIVE DECISION IS TO DELIVER HIS NOTE SATURDAY MORNING, IN THE HOPE THAT IT WON'T COME TO NOTICE UNTIL MONDAY. I SAID AS LONG AS HE HAD ACCEPTS CHARGE OF THIS EMBASSY ON SATURDAY PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE I HAD NO QUARREL WITH HIS PLAN. HE PROPOSED THAT WE SIGN THE DOCUMENTS SATURDAY MORNING AFTER HE HAS HAD HIS NOTE DELIVERED (HE SAID HE AND HILLGENBERG WOULD WORK OUT HOW TO DELIVER THE NOTE).

5. KOPF SAID BONN HAD TURNED DOWN HIS REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF TO WORK ON OUR INTERESTS. HE ASKED IF WE COULD NOT LEAVE SOMEONE BEHIND TO HELP THEM. I REPLIED ABSOLUTELY NOT, THE DEPT OF STATE WANTED EVERYONE OUT, AND I POINTED OUT DANGER THEY COULD BE USED AS HOSTAGES, OR COULD STIMULATE CHARGES BY AMIN LATER ON THAT HE, KOPF, WAS HARBORING

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AMERICAN CIA AGENTS IN HIS EMBASSY. KOPF SAID HE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND BY BONN THAT THERE WOULD BE AN "ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER" ASSIGNED TO OUR EMBASSY IN NAIROBI WHO WOULD BE LOOKING AFTER OUR PROBLEMS HERE AND MAKING TRIPS TO KAMPALA TO LOOK AFTER CITIZENS' PROBLEMS, AS DO THE CANADIANS, AUSTRALIANS, SCANDINAVIANS, ETC. I SAID THAT WAS NOT MY UNDERSTANDING, AND THAT THERE WOULD BE AN ADMIN OFFICER IN NAIROBI FOR A SHORT TIME ONLY. CLEANING UP

THE DETAILS OF OUR CLOSURE, BUT THAT WOULD JUST BE TEMPORARY. KOPF THEN SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO INSIST THAT BONN ASSIGN HIM ADDITIONAL STAFF. I ENCOURAGED HIM TO PURSUE THE MATTER WITH BONN, AS I AGREED WITH HIM HIS SMALL STAFF MIGHT BE BURDENED WITH OUR AFFAIRS, THOUGH IN FACT THEY WOULD BE LARGELY CUSTODIAL. KOPF WISHED TO POSTPONE DISCUSSION OF TECHNICAL DETAILS, WHICH HILLGENBERG AND ADMIN OFFICER WARMBOLD ARE TO PURSUE WITH RINGDAHL, MARK AND KENNEDY. I TOLD KOPF WE NEED TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHICH LOCAL EMPLOYEES ARE TO BE RE-EMPLOYED BY FRG EMBASSY. HE SAID LET'S WAIT A BIT ON THAT. KOPF AND I AGREED TO MEET AGAIN TOMORROWS.

6. COMMENT: MEETING WAS QUITE CORDIAL. KOPF IS CONCERNED THAT GOU WILL LEARN THAT FRG WILL BE PROTECTING POWER PREMATURELY, THAT IS, BEFORE SATURDAY, AND THAT GENERAL AMIN MAY MAKE A FUSS ABOUT IT. WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO KEEP IT SECRET, BY SIMPLY TELLING THOSE WHO KNOW WE ARE CLOSING THAT WE ARE NEGOTIATING FOR A PROTECTING POWER. IN KOPF'S OPINION, IT WOULD BE ALL TO OUR BENEFIT IF AMIN DECIDED TO KICK US OUT, HAVING LEARNED WE ARE LEAVING, BECAUSE THEN THE ONUS WOULD BE ON HIM. IT WAS AND IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO AGREE WITH KOPF, SINCE I WOULD BE THE ONE WHO WOULD CATCH THE "ONUS" OR WHATEVER FROM THE GENERAL. END COMMENT.

7. AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT WAS THAT KOPF SAID SOVIET AMB ZAKHAROV HAD MADE A BIG TO-DO ABOUT THE KLEIN PHONE-BUGGING BUSINESS, IN TALKING TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS GATHER AT ENTEBBE TO SEE OFF JUMBE. (THAT WAS THE DAY AFTER AMIN MADE HIS "REVELATION". I DIDN'T GO TO ENTEBBE.) ACCORDING TO KOPF, ZAKHAROV WAS HARANGUING HIS EAST BLOC COLLEAGUES ABOUT WHAT HE LABELLED A "WATERGATE IN KAMPALA," AND HOW DASTARDLY THE AMERICANS WERE TO ENGAGE IN SUCH PRACTICES. KOPF SAID HE ASKED FRENCH AMBASSADOR

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THABAULT IF HE HAD BOTHERED TO REPORT PHONE-BUGGING INCIDENT TO PARIS. THABAULT SAID OF COURSE HE HAD, BY CABLE. LOPF REMARKED THAT HE HIMSELF HAD NOT REPORTED IT, EXCEPT TO MENTION IT IN A LETTER SOMETIME LATER, AS HE MAKES A PRACTICE OF NOT REPORTING ALL OF AMIN'S ANTI-AMERICAN ANTICS AND DIATRIBES.

8. COMMENT: IN FUTURE I HOPE KOPF WILL REPORT SUCH THINGS, BUT WE SHOULDN'T COUNT ON HIM FOR TELLING US WHAT IS GOING ON IN UGANDA. HE FOLLOWS A POLICY OF "WHAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE DOESN'T KNOW WON'T HURT THEM," AND THEREFORE REPORTS ONLY EVENTS THAT ACCORD WITH HIS CONCEPTIONS OF WHAT THE TRUE SITUATION IS IN UGANDA. HE SAYS AMIN JUST HAS A "BIG MOUTH." TO STEAL A LINE FROM RANDALL JARRELL, WRITING ABOUT A CHARACTER MODELLED AFTER MARY MCCARTHY, IN MY OPINION AMIN'S BITE IS WORSE THAN HIS BARK.

KEELEY

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